

Common Sense Guide to Responsible Hospitality



One-Day Permit Holders

Many non-profit organizations and community groups arrange special events, fairs, festivals to generate funding due to their dwindling resources and government cutbacks. A set of clear and consistent policies can help inexperienced and untrained volunteers to control youth access to alcohol, and can reduce the risk of intoxication. This can be achieved by offering more choices, such as, food, entertainment, game, and a variety of beverages.

Suggestions for responsible hospitality

- ❑ Avoid focus on selling alcohol beverages at the event. Host should set a limit on beer and distilled consumption and wine tasting, and encourage customers to consume foods and alcohol free beverages.
- ❑ Avoid promotions, advertisements, and practices that encourage over consumption.
- ❑ Emphasize publicizing alcohol policies before and during the event.
- ❑ Develop policies and practices that prohibit the sale of alcohol beverages to underage persons and adults who would furnish alcohol to the underage.
- ❑ Develop policies and practices that discourage the sale of alcohol beverage to impaired adults and prohibit the sale of alcohol to intoxicated persons.
- ❑ Be aware of social host liabilities that in many states hold the host liable for the actions of an intoxicated guest.
- ❑ Use servers of legal drinking age to serve alcohol beverages.
- ❑ Ensure adequate staffing to oversee the event and prevent pass-offs to the underage.
- ❑ Designate an individual(s) to be responsible for the serving of alcohol and promote recognition of serving size and alcohol content to reduce size.
- ❑ Set limits for drinks per person and per service.
- ❑ Educate servers to the rules and regulations, civil liabilities, and criminal statutes governing the service of alcohol within their jurisdictions.
- ❑ Ask patrons to present their valid IDs.
- ❑ Monitor guest consumption of alcohol beverages.
- ❑ Encourage consumption of high-protein and low-salt foods that slow the absorption of alcohol into blood stream, and ensure availability throughout the event.
- ❑ Make alcohol free beverages available whenever alcohol beverages are served.
- ❑ Stop serving alcohol well in advance at the end of the event.
- ❑ Arrange alternative transportation for alcohol impaired drivers.

*For further information please call Kathie Durbin, Community Outreach Manager
Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control*

240-777-1917 or e-mail: Kathie.durbin@montgomerycountymd.gov